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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. FIRST NAMED INVENTOR FILING DATE APPLICATION NO.

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Kenichiro Sakai

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP **SUITE 700** 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

FRANKLIN, JAMARA ALZAIDA

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AN

Office Action Summary — The MAILING DATE If this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address - Period if reply AS HORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Estantians of time may be available under the provisions of 3 CRF 1-18(6). In on overt, however, may a neity be timely filed Estantians of time may be available under the provisions of 3 CRF 1-18(6). In on overt, however, may a neity be timely filed If the period for neity is specified above. Be maximism establishy period vial legislary within the statutory minimum of thinty (50) days, will be considered timely, If the period for neity is specified above. Be maximism establishy period vial legislary and vial explains (3) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4		Application N . BEST AVAPPLICANTSE COPY	
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3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6) Other:	2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) Notice of Informal Page 1	

Art Unit: 2876

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities:

in claim 3, line 3, substitute "and/or" with --or--,

in claim 4, line 2, substitute "and/or" with --or--,

in claim 6, line 7, substitute "that" with --than--,

in claim 7, line 5, substitute "it is determined" with --a determination is made--,

in claim 12, line 2, substitute "and/or" with --or--,

in claim 13, line 2, substitute "and/or" with --or--, and

in claim 16, line 4, substitute "it is determined" with --a determination is made--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Application/Control Number: 09/835,625

Art Unit: 2876

4. Claims 1-9, drawn to the method, and apparatus claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krichever et al. (US 5,591,952) (hereinafter referred to 'Krichever').

Krichever teaches a bar code reader for identifying two-dimensional bar codes. The bar code reader features a CCD 12 for detecting photo elements 22 arranged in an array of M rows and N columns. Photo elements 22 are transformed in a bit-mapped manner into memory 20. A CPU accesses the bit-mapped image data in the memory 20 to thereby scan and interpret the image of a field of view 11, find a symbol 10, and decode the characters in the symbol 10 (col. 7, lines 4-7). As illustrated in figure 7, cell array 55 is read in a raster scan one row, or column, at a time, in a rectilinear fashion, to see if recognizable bar code patterns are found. There are various ways of detecting the existence of a bar code, including by way of counting the number of transitions between black and white transitions. The value, as a function of length of scan (or transitions per unit length), is a distinguishing factor as shown in figure 12. When any part of the symbol 10 has been located, the next task is to find the angular direction of rows. The first attempt is a rectilinear line. If no recognizable bar code pattern exists, a series of angular scans can be implemented, starting at the centerpoint of an address which produced the recognized code pattern, for example at 5° increments, producing a series of scan lines 57a, 57b, 57c, etc, until a complete line of code is recognized. In this manner, a bar code could be distinguished from text within the field of view 11 (col. 9, lines 3-46).

Application/Control Number: 09/835,625

Art Unit: 2876

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Page 4

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Krummel (US 5,557,091) teaches a method and system for bar code image processing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamara A. Franklin whose telephone number is 703-305-0128. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703)308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jamara A. Franklin Examiner Art Unit 2876

JAF June 15, 2003

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800